

**Home Visiting Task Force
Tuesday, January 29, 2013
10:00am-12:00pm**

**Ounce of Prevention Fund
33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, IL 60603**

2800 Montvale Drive, Springfield, IL 62704

Conference Line: 888.494.4032 Access Code: 7198518485

MEETING NOTES

Participants: Andrea Palmer, Dawn Thomas, Whitney Walsh, Nancie Brown, Lisa Jankowski, Cheryl Floyd, Christine Johnson, Kathleen Kurtz, Cindy Zumwalt, Julia Marynas, Sue Swisher, Sheryl Stoller, Penny Smith, Anita Berry, Juanona Brewster, Susan Munro, Karen Scott, Diana Rauner, Kelly Woodlock, Roy Harley, Ralph Schubert, Janelle Weldin-Frisch, Mary Salisbury, Bill McKenzie, , Lorretta Barriffe, Jan Stepto-Millett, Elissa Gitlow, Julie Spielberger, Sally Puleo, Leslie Janes, Jeanna Capito, Jacob Vigil, Dhara Thakar , Granada Williams, Diana Rauner (co-chair), Gaylord Gieseke (co-chair), Rebecca Bunn, Anna Torsney-Weir (staffer)

- **Welcome and Introductions**

- Anna Torsney-Weir, Policy Associate at the Ounce, is the new staffer for the Task Force.
- July 19, 2012 meeting notes approved and finalized: Jeanna Capito motioned to approve, seconded by Teresa Kelly.

- **State Budget Update**

- Budget Day is March 6th, when the Governor will release his budget proposal for FY14 – including proposals for agencies like ISBE and DHS. ISBE recommended a \$40M restoration to the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG), which would include a \$15M increase over last year's funding. It also proposed an increase in the general state aid foundation level – there was a decrease last year and it's not fully funded at the statutorily set level, so the recommendation is to fully fund it.
- Important to make sure that there are no cuts to state funding for home visiting this year, including the birth to three set aside in the ECBG and especially the maintenance of effort funding through DHS so that we can continue to draw down the federal MIECHV funds.
- We can't assume legislators and key stakeholders are aware that this carries over another year and must be thinking about advocacy and education strategies. Also, be aware that there are around 40 new legislators this session. Need to educate them about early childhood issues, especially home visiting.
- Know that there are advocacy efforts at work to protect our funding. Early Childhood Advocacy Day is April 16th.
- Several attendees shared advocacy efforts underway, e.g. bridging to youth organizations that can do advocacy, legislative breakfasts, etc.

- **Federal Sequestration:** The federal government came to a deal to avoid the fiscal cliff on January 1. The decision on the across-the-board cuts that would come as a result of sequestration was delayed until March 1. If nothing changes, as of March 1, across-the-board cuts will take effect. MIECHV is

not immune to these cuts – in fact, it will suffer a 7.6% cut if sequestration goes through. There are advocacy efforts underway to fight against the cuts, but nothing is guaranteed at this point.

- **RTT-ELC:** Illinois received about \$35M 5-year ELC, opportunity to expand and grow infrastructure of early learning programs: big focus on child care, quality improvement, 5-tier QRS, professional development. Home visiting not a focus but will be integrated and supported where relevant. Note that though we tend to focus on MIECHV, we are about the entire HV system. Cicero is an overlapping community with MIECHV-ELC.
- **MIECHV Approved Models:** At the HRSA site visit, federal contact Josey Ansah said that there are now 12 federally approved evidence based home visiting models.
- **Prevention Initiative Monitoring RFSP:** ISBE has released the first ever RFSP (contract) to monitor PI programs. February 28th is the deadline for applications.
- **SAC Grant - Illinois Home Visiting Quality Project Update**
 - Originally focused on 0-3 monitoring, now focused more on supports for programs to implement quality across home visiting models.
 - Statewide quality summit – lessons learned projects have used to think about quality and share across models and service delivery. April 2 (downstate) and 5 (Chicago.)
- **MIECHV Report and Discussion**
 - Teresa Kelly and her team reported on MIECHV implementation, beginning with the HRSA site visit January 8-19 that included a number of MIECHV stakeholders. Overall, the site visit went very well. HRSA is especially interested in the rigorous research projects Illinois is pursuing through the competitive grant, and is very pleased we are engaging both MIECHV and non-MIECHV sites. HRSA is also very interested in how we are changing our infrastructure and our system to be sustainable, the state CQI process, and integrating non-MIECHV into it. The HVTF Executive Committee will serve as the strategic advisory body for developing the state CQI process.
 - **MIHOPE** now includes 14 agencies in 4 communities. Working on site agreements. March 5 kick-off for Chicago area sites, March 7 for downstate in Champaign. Kick off will be home visitors meeting researchers, finalizing processes, working with coordinated intake agencies regarding the funnel into the RCT.
 - **Strong Start** is a second RCT attached to MIECHV – have confirmed they are looking at the same population but different data. It will not impact families more than MIHOPE.
 - Benchmark reports due February 4th: Form 1, demographic data, and Form 2, benchmarks. The team will share the data once it's compiled.
 - **Community systems development:** electronic coordinated intake systems are up and running, some including non-MIECHV programs. Joanna and Jay are working with the community systems developers in communities to create strategic plan.
 - Sustainable funding is a big concern.
 - The U of Chicago Medical Center serves lots of patients in the SELN. Family Focus has already formed relationships, expanding it now as model to getting into high trauma hospitals moving towards universal screen.
- **Strong Foundations Year 3 Report**
 - Our colleagues at Chapin Hall recently completed their Year 3 evaluation of our federal Strong Foundations EBHV grant. Strong Foundations is a five-year grant that began in 2009 and is now in its final year. Illinois is one of 17 states receiving this funding from the Children's Bureau, which is for infrastructure building initiatives. The goals are to implement

activities to strengthen infrastructure and understand how local programs operate and receive supports from state system. Evaluation focuses on 3 models: PAT, HFI, and NFP. There are three components to the study: process (survey, interview), program level; training system; administrative data study

- Highlights of the findings include that since the implementation of Strong Foundations, there has been growth in the home visiting system in several areas, especially in the areas of leadership, state-level collaboration and partners and professional development and training. The infrastructure in Illinois continues to reflect resiliency and strength in a number of areas that affect program quality and effectiveness. These include having strong advocacy organizations; growing state-level collaborative leadership that includes public entities such as the OECD, the new Strong Foundations Partnership, the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiative (ECCS) and state agencies, as well as public-private collaborative groups like the ELC and the HVTF. Yet there are challenges that remain to the state's efforts to strengthen the system of supports for home visiting programs and improve program quality and model fidelity—notably stable funding, building common data collection and monitoring systems, local system building, and communication across the system.
- **Southside Early Learning Network Report**
 - Representatives (Jan Stepto-Millett from Children's Home + Aid, Tracy Ocomy from COFI, Merri Ex and Lorretta Barrieffe from Family Focus, Humulhire Ibrahim from ChildServ, and Coketha Hendricks from Henry Booth House) from one of our 6 pilot MIECHV communities, the Southside Early Learning Network, gave an update on what they have learned since the beginning of the grant and how it has changed their practices in ways that could be applicable to the statewide home visiting system. The group noted that they had spent informal time together previously and collaborated frequently with each other and with other community supports, but MIECHV brought intentionality and focus to their work.
 - They are experiencing growing collaboration and trust among the partner agencies as well as members of the community, and see it as a model of collective impact. They identified what they see as the elements of success, including: establishing a basic level of trust, dispersing funds fairly and with a very clear mandate, learning how to be complementary beyond MIECHV even though agencies are very different, private support beyond federal and state funding, security going through 2015, and trainings.
 - The update generated a lot of excitement, and so we plan to continue having the pilot communities provide updates at our future meetings so we can all stay engaged in the work on the ground and think about how MIECHV can be used as a vehicle to leverage statewide improvements in the home visiting system.
- **HVTF Work Plan:** The group reviewed an updated work plan based on conversations at the July meeting of the full Home Visiting Task Force. There were several changes suggested, which will be made. Teresa Kelly moved to approve it with those edits, Jeanna Capito seconded the motion, and it was approved.
- **Wrap Up and Next Steps:** The next meeting is April 29th, where we will have another MIECHV community join us for an update. We will also discuss setting up a formal mechanism for advocates to hear what providers and communities are experiencing and how we can help.